

This is my report for the year just ended, which has been relatively quiet.

One of the main issues has been the ongoing maintenance to Community Parks and its equipment. Grateful thanks must go to Cllr. Metcalf for his work done in collating finance offers and the installation of play equipment over these past few years, it has not been an easy task. The ongoing maintenance costs will be substantial in the years to come and various finance raising events have been held over the years to help meet these costs.

After considerable exchange of emails to NYCC, they finally managed to stop the egress of water onto the A6108 at the Eastern end of the village. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years, but it is hoped the problem is solved.

As we again entered the Tidy Village competition, a number of Councillors and public spirited Residents tidied up the public areas. The inside of the bus shelter and the railings over the stream were painted and this has certainly improved its looks. Again, many thanks go to Cllr. Metcalf and also to Mr. Dave Coates for their work in achieving this. The village car park was weeded and any regrowth has been sprayed off. The Springfield notice board was in danger of collapse and this was rectified. At the time of writing, it certainly hasn't been decent weather, but the railings adjacent to the telephone box still await painting by NYCC. Grateful thanks go to all residents and Councillors who assisted in this tidying work but we only managed to come 7th in the competition.

The Travellers Rest is an ongoing saga, it is now 10 years since it finally closed and it appears to be no further forward. Suggestions have been made for a compulsory purchase by Richmondshire District Council, but as there is no money available, it appears a lost cause at the moment. I am aware that discussions still take place between the owner and the pub consortium with a view to purchase.

Of considerable concern to residents is the apparent speed of traffic through Skeeby despite speed cushions. After what seemed a considerable length of time since it was first mentioned, we were able to obtain equipment and training. Speed Watch events have been held, about 6 vehicles found to be speeding and details forwarded to N Y Police for action. It is felt that it is perceived speeding rather than blatant excessive speed. The use of Matrix boards is not widespread in North Yorkshire, but it is being monitored by SPC to see if they could be an option. The upgrade of The Great North Road to Motorway standard has taken a lot longer than expected, delays being plentiful which is disappointing after such a speedy start. Archeologists doing extensive work at Scotch Corner were part of the delay, subsidence at the River Swale being another. Local signage for Skeeby had been designed and approved by Highways based in Leeds. This is a case where someone looking at a map sat in a distant office apparently didn't use common sense and design it so traffic used the more appropriate route, instead directing them on a totally unnecessary expedition to reach Skeeby.

In September we were approached by a person wishing to self build in Scurragh Lane. As we listened to proposals, it became obvious that there was going to be an intensification from one dwelling to numerous. We await proposals, if any, as to what is going to be involved and the reaction of the Planning Committee to this matter. A small number of planning applications have been approved and implemented in Skeeby and we still await the village green being reinstated. We were also consulted regarding Ward boundary changes and we gave our opinions regarding amalgamating with another village, but it looks like we will be with Richmond.

The untimely death of C.C. Michael Hesletine in December 2016 had left a very large void to fill. I am happy to report that his successor, C.C. Angus Thomson has been very effective in his positions of

both District and County Councillor and I would like to thank him on behalf of SPC for his strenuous efforts. These do not go unnoticed.

No PC is effective without the help of its members and I wish to record my thanks for their great help and assistance this past year.

Lastly, no PC can function without a dedicated Clerk and in Frances there is no doubt we have the best there is. My grateful thanks to you all, especially Frances as she has so much to bear and she takes it all in her stride. Thank you

J. S. Budden